

Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant notes that col. 11, lines 35-60, describe “three common protocols for the IP multicast,” but do not describe use of the teachings of col. 7, lines 40-50.

Likewise, col. 7, lines 40-50, do not mention anything relating to “multicast.” Thus, taken together, the cited portions of Archarya fail to disclose determining multicast group membership on a per downstream virtual subnetwork, edge device, and port basis.

The Examiner further states that Archarya discloses initializing the routing table for establishing the connection, including the set-up connection of multicast protocol (generating a multicast session table) and cites col. 5, lines 1-25, and col. 6, lines 55-65. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant notes that neither col. 5, lines 1-25, nor col. 6, lines 55-65, disclose anything relating to “multicast.” It is also worthy of note that the Examiner cites col. 7 and col. 11 as teaching determining multicast group membership, yet cites col. 5 and col. 6 (which precede col. 7 and col. 11) as teaching generating a multicast session table entry based on...multicast group membership. Thus, taken together, the cited portions of Archarya fail to disclose generating a multicast session table entry based on the list of downstream virtual subnetworks and the multicast group membership.

The Examiner appears to state that Archarya discloses generating the flow table and storing it in the switch/edge device (downloading the multicast session table entry to the edge devices) and cites col. 9, lines 10-55, and Figure 7, noting that the connection can only be established as a flow in each switch when each switch has port entries stored in it. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant notes that col. 5, lines 1-25, which the Examiner cites as disclosing generating a multicast session table, mentions a routine table and a lookup table and col. 6, lines 55-65, mention a table illustrated in Figure 1B. However, col. 9, lines 10-55 do not appear to mention a table at all. Even the “flow table,” which the Examiner mentions, but Applicant cannot find mentioned in the cited portion of Archarya, is apparently not a “routine table” or a “lookup table,” as mentioned earlier in Archarya. Thus, Applicant submits that Archarya fails to disclose downloading the multicast session table entry to the edge devices.

The Examiner further states that Archarya discloses the switching system using IGMP and that there is a final packet used to tear down or leave the connection and cites col. 15, lines 25-27. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant notes that the cited portion of col. 15 discloses simply tearing down a VP/VC of an ATM connection, not receiving a leave message (IGMP) via a port of one of the edge devices. Merely tearing down a VP/VC of an ATM connection bear no relation to

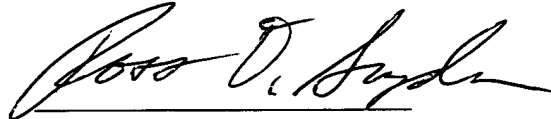
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switching group affiliation, as understood in the context of multicast group membership. Thus, Applicant submits that Archarya fails to disclose receiving a leave message (IGMP).

In conclusion, Applicant has overcome all of the Office's rejections, and early notice of allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited. If, for any reason, the Office is unable to allow the Application on the next Office Action, and believes a telephone interview would be helpful, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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